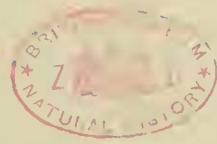


16 MAR 1936  
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# NOVITATES ZOOLOGICAE

Vol. XXXIX.

MARCH 1936.

No. 4.

## THREE GENERA OF EROTYLID COLEOPTERA NEW TO THE AFRICAN FAUNA.

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IN the *Ann. Mag. N.H.* (8), xx, p. 137 (1917), I tabulated the African genera of Erotylidae known at that date and gave a list of the species, numbering 85 in all. Since that date about 25 species have been added, chiefly by Dr. K. M. Heller, who has also characterised a new genus *Scaphodacne* (1918). In the present paper three more genera are recorded, two of them new to science, whilst the third, *Thallis* Erichs. (1842), is a genus belonging to the Australian and Papuan fauna. Three Indian insects attributed to the genus in the Junk catalogue I have shown in my volume in the "Fauna of India" series to belong to other genera. The discovery of an African representative is therefore noteworthy. It would be easy to find features by which to characterise a new genus for this species, but I know of nothing to be gained by such a course, and the surprising relationships of this African insect are better advertised by assigning it to the same genus as its nearest allies.

In *Zeitschrift für Wissenschaftliche Insectenbiologie*, vol. 6, 1910 (p. 235), an insect from East Africa belonging to this family was described by Eichelbaum as *Brechmotriplax usambarensis*, both genus and species being supposed to be new to science. This name was omitted from the 1911 catalogue of Erotylidae, and consequently from the synopsis published by me in 1917, to which I have referred in the opening sentence. A study of the description shows that *Brechmotriplax* is a synonym of *Zythonia* Westw. (1874). I have already announced that *Lophocrotaphus* Gorh. (1900) is a synonym of the same genus.

It is probable that the East African *Z. usambarensis* will prove to be distinct from the West African *Z. fulva* Westw. (1874), but the published details are too scanty to decide this point. These forms are certainly very closely related. The specimen considered by Eichelbaum to be the female of his species may possibly be a male of low development.

The types of the species here described are in the British Museum collection.

### 1. *Thallis jucundus*, sp. nov.

Niger, prothorace rufo, elytris viridibus, capite postice tibiis tarsisque piceo-rufis; elongato-ovalis, valde convexus, ubique breviter sat minute setosus,

antennis pedibusque brevibus, robustis, clava antennali parva, compacta, abarticulis tribus transversis composita, oculis minutis, grosse granulatis; pronoto tumido, fortiter aequaliter punctato, lateribus valde arcuatis, basi recto, angulis posticis acutis; elytris fortiter seriato-punctatis, haud striatis, punctis postice paulo minoribus.

Long. 5 mm.; lat. max. 2 mm.

KENYA COLONY: Kinangop (H. J. A. Turner, Jan.).

Several specimens have been presented by the Coryndon Memorial Museum, Nairobi, to the British Museum.

This is an unmistakable insect, with little resemblance to any other species except in its general structure. Its red prothorax, metallic green elytra and dark head, legs and antennae will enable it to be easily recognised. The antennae and legs are stout, the former with all the joints very short, the last 3 forming a small compact club, the tarsi composed of 5 distinct narrow joints. The head bears 2 stridulatory files placed far apart within the thoracic cavity. The eyes are small, very prominent and coarsely faceted. The upper surface is strongly and rather uniformly punctured, the punctures of the elytra in rows but not forming striae, and the entire body is clothed with short setae, which are fairly close upon the antennae and legs.

### *Trichotritoma*, gen. nov.

Corpus oblongo-ovale, brevissime pubescens, pedibus robustis antennisque brevibus. Prosternum postice latum, emarginatum. Antennarum articuli 3-6 regulariter decrescentes, clava brevi, triphylla. Pedum femora robusti, tibiae latae, anticae et intermediae extus valde angulatae, tarsi pseudotetrameri, lati. Oculi parvi, minute granulati. Clypeus antice angustus, leviter emarginatus. Mandibulae latae, apice producto. Maxillae inermes, palporum articulo ultimo lato. Ligula lata, haud bilobata, palpis brevibus.

Genotype: *Trichotritoma leo*, sp. nov.

### 2. *Trichotritoma leo*, sp. nov.

Laete flava, oculis antennarumque articulis 5 ultimis nigris; oblongo-ovalis, corpore supra crebre punctulato, cum pedibus ubique minute flavo-pubescentibus; pronoti lateribus paulo deplanatis, leviter aequaliter arcuatis, angulis omnibus paulo productis, posticis acutis; elytris parum profunde striatis, lateribus arcuatis, paulo deplanatis; tibiis omnibus pone basin dilatatis, antica ante medium, intermedia post medium angulata, postica ante apicem minute dentata; corpore subtus nitido, parce pubescente:

♂, segmento basali ventrali medio penicillato.

Long. 12 mm.; lat. max. 6.5 mm.

N.-W. RHODESIA: Kashitu (H. C. Dollman, Feb.).

This genus is nearly allied to *Palaeolybas* Crotch (1876) and has, like it, strongly dilated tibiae and tarsi. It differs by its more elongate and depressed, not globose, form, the fine hair with which its entire upper surface is clothed, the regularly diminishing joints of the antennal footstalk, etc. It is the largest yet known of the forms, generally very small, belonging to the sub-family Tritominae, in which the sides of the mouth are not elevated but flattened out.

The legs are less short than those of *Palaeolybus*, but the tibiae have a similar angular dilatation externally, except those of the hind pair, in which there is only a slight angle near the extremity.

The whole insect is of a rich orange colour except the black eyes and terminal half of the antennae.

The 3 specimens are all males, as indicated by the very marked dilatation of the front tarsi and also by a small tuft of dense erect hairs in the middle of the first ventral sternite.

### *Rhynchotritoma* gen. nov.

Corpus ovatum, pedibus gracilibus tarsisque pseudo-tetrameris, parum dilatatis. Caput parvum, oculis minute granulatis, parte buccali producto, rostriformi. Clypeus quam latitudinem duplo longior, angustissimus, apice bilobato. Labrum exsertum, linguiforme. Mandibula anguste producta, debilis, apice obtuso. Maxilla angustissima, unilobata, apice obtuso. Palpus maxillaris longus, articulo ultimo valde transverso. Mentum virguliforme, subtus canaliculatum, ligula quadrata, angulis anticis spiniformibus, palpis brevibus. Antennae haud longae, articulo tertio longo, clava triphylla. Prosternum postice latissimum, leviter emarginatum.

Genotype: *R. divisa*, sp. nov.

### 3. *Rhynchotritoma divisa*, sp. nov.

Laete flava, nitida, elytris nigris, margine antico apicibusque exceptis, clava antennali fuscata; breviter ovata, modice convexa, capite minute haud crebre punctato; pronoti lateribus minutissime, dorso paulo fortius, punctatis, marginibus lateralibus leviter arcuatis, basi trisinuato, angulis anticis sat acutis, posticis obtusis; elytris regulariter minute et crebre striato-punctatis, intervallis minutissime punctatis, corporis subtus lateribus sat fortiter punctatis; pedibus totis flavis, gracilibus, tibiis apice vix dilatatis.

Long. 4 mm.; lat. max. 2.5 mm.

N. RHODESIA: N'Changa (C. J. Macnamara).

This very remarkable little insect has the essential features of the great, widely distributed, genus *Tritoma* Geoffr. (1762), although differing from it in the great elongation of the fore part of the head and the corresponding attenuation of all the organs of the mouth, a modification unknown, I believe, in any other member of the family.

The head, pronotum, legs and underside are bright orange-yellow and the elytra are black, with a narrow front marginal band, broader at the outer than at the inner end, and the tips yellow, the pale colour of the latter not sharply limited anteriorly.

The body is rather broadly oval and moderately convex and the legs are slender. The head is narrow, the eyes small but prominent and the intervening space about two and a half times the breadth of one eye as seen from above. The clypeus is narrower at its base than this space, twice as long as its width at the base, its sides straight and slightly convergent and the extremity bilobed. A pair of minute stridulatory files, visible only when the head is detached, can be seen close to the sides of the occipital foramen. A small pore is distinctly visible in each angle of the pronotum.

4. *Rhynchotritoma uniformis*, sp. nov.

Flava, oculis antennisque basi excepto nigris; breviter ovata, convexa; capite minute haud crebre punctato, oculis sat magnis; pronoti lateribus minutissime, dorso paulo fortius punctatis, marginibus lateralibus leviter arcuatis, basi trisinuato, angulis haud acutis; elytris regulariter sat minute sed distincte striato-punctatis, intervallis minutissime punctatis; corporis subtus lateribus minute punctatis.

Long. 3·5 mm.; lat. max. 2·5 mm.

ANGOLA: Quirimbo, 75 km. inland from Porto Amboim (Dr. K. Jordan, May, 1934).

*R. uniformis* is very closely related to *R. divisa* (cf. p. 255), but uniformly yellow in colour and slightly smaller in average size. The eyes are a very little larger and less widely separated and the rows of punctures upon the elytra rather more accentuated. The sides of the metasternum and abdomen are less strongly punctured beneath. The club of the antenna is a little narrower than that of *R. divisa*.

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